BENGALURU, THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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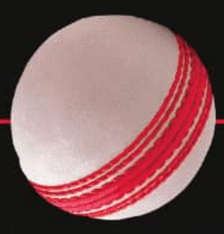
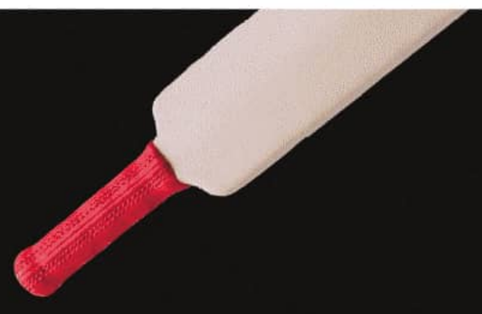


Own the fandom on YouTube

YouTube is where sports come to life

Scan to know more



67% Indians watch sports content on YouTube vs 48% on OTT

YouTube ROI is 3x of OTT and 2.4x of TV in India

There's only one YouTube

Source
1. Kantar Report
2. "In an MMM meta-analysis we commissioned with Nielsen, on average, YouTube effectiveness was 24.11 times greater than Linear TV effectiveness across Total CPG MMMs that measured YouTube, Other Digital, and Linear TV from Jan '20- Sep'23 in India. According to a meta analysis of CPG MMM Studies by Analytic Edge in India, YouTube ROI was 3.0x of OTT Platforms ROI (2021-2024)"

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PRICE OF WAR

Spike in diesel prices over past few weeks hits transport corporations, impacts household budgets

PAGE 2

BIDDING ADIEU?

What is Siddaramaiah's decision? As speculations swirl, CM says he will clarify all matters today

PAGE 7

Nearly 5 kg plastic removed from cow's stomach recently; doctors say surgery only option to save cattle that have ingested plastic, piles of which continue to be littered in every corner of city, often mixed with food waste

CHEWING THE CUD IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

Traders say enforcement drives are temporary and predictable

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Plastic waste is no longer just a pollution problem for Bengaluru and its surrounding districts. It is now entering cattle stomachs, choking animals and exposing the failure of enforcement despite a statewide ban on several plastic products.

In one recent case from Hoskote in Bengaluru Rural district, veterinarians removed nearly five kilograms of plastic waste from a cow's stomach after the animal stopped eating and collapsed from severe bloating.

The incident has once again exposed how plastic dumped by consumers, hotels and event halls is ending up in the food chain of stray animals across urban and rural Karnataka.

Veterinarians at the Anugondanahalli veterinary hospital performed surgery after the animal remained unable to consume fodder for nearly 10 days. During the operation, they discovered a mass of plastic covers and waste inside the stomach. Veterinary officials said such cases are increasing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

KAUSHIK JN

"From food delivery packaging and takeaway covers to disposable water bottles, plastic table sheets and carry bags used at weddings and public events, banned plastic continues to circulate openly —Devi Kumar, green activist

Fall guys

Civic agency says small delay notwithstanding, plan to double hands to manage fallen trees and branches well on track

Garima Prasher
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The Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) plan to double its workforce in order to manage fallen trees and branches during rain is running behind schedule.

As the monsoon approaches and pre-monsoon showers are already lashing the city, the revised plan with strengthened canopy management, rapid response, night team, and crane teams has not yet been implemented in Bengaluru North, Central, and East City Corporation limits.

During the downpour on Tuesday, GBA recorded 134 cases of trees and branches falling across the city.

A majority of these (61 trees and branches fallen) were recorded from the North City Corporation limit. Central City Corporation recorded two incidents, and East recorded 11 incidents involving fallen trees and branches. All the city corporations are said to have cleared the debris left behind by Tuesday's rain.

So far, 14 canopy management, rapid response, night team, and crane teams, with 112 persons, are manning North, Central, and East City Corporations. Under the revised plan, 42 teams were to be brought in these three zones to manage incidents of trees and branches.

A total of 84 teams across the city will manage such incidents. All put together, there will be 528 personnel apart from 18 cranes clearing the debris. These 84 teams include 30 regular canopy management teams, 25 rapid response teams,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Fam jam

Atta Galatta is hosting It's Raining Dogs & Cats, a day of stories, creativity and community spirit with a playful celebration that blends literature, imagination and companionship, welcoming families, children and even their furry friends into the joy. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 30, 11 am onwards**

02 Wildly imaginative

The Galleria Mall has transformed into a Jungle Book-themed destination for children and families, with an immersive experience featuring larger-than-life animatronic displays of iconic characters along with workshops, performances and more. **Where: The Galleria Mall, Yelahanka; When: Until June 7, 12 pm onwards**

03 Childhood reverie

Magical World, an exhibition featuring a vibrant collection of artworks by Badrunissa Irfan, brings alive the magic of childhood and the warmth of simple moments through playful, hand-painted characters and scenes. **Where: Sublime Gallery, UB City; When: Until May 30**

04 Reel reflections

Cinema & Beyond is hosting The Cinema Of Bimal Roy, a three hour immersive journey into the artistry of Bimal Roy's films— exploring stories, emotions, memorable scenes and timeless songs that continue to resonate with audiences. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: May 31, 4 pm**

05 Cartoon carnival

The Oterra Hotel is hosting a Kids Carnival Brunch, bringing a vibrant world of cartoon legends and superhero adventures. While parents enjoy a premium spread, children can dive into interactive games, live performances and more. **Where: The Oterra Hotel, 24@43, Electronic City; When: May 31**

Steep diesel price hike hits state's buses, trucks hard

Transport officials warn fuel prices may soon overwhelm state transport bodies, while truckers also report immense pressure to keep vehicles running amid soaring diesel costs

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The sharp rise in diesel prices over the past few weeks has dealt a severe financial blow to Karnataka's state-run transport corporations, while also triggering a cascading impact on freight movement, essential commodities and household budgets. Already struggling to recover from mounting financial losses, the state's four transport corporations are now staring at an additional burden of nearly Rs 40 crore every month due to repeated fuel price hikes.

Over the last 11 days, diesel went up by Rs 7.81 (from Rs 90.99 to Rs 98.80) in Bengaluru. Officials said the first three hikes alone increased operational costs for the four transport corporations by nearly Rs 25 crore. Following the latest revision on Monday, the additional burden has now risen to Rs 40 crore per month. If fuel prices continue to climb, transport officials fear the losses could become unmanageable in the coming months.

The hike comes at a time when Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), BMTC, NWKRTC and KKRTC were slowly witnessing financial recovery due to the state government's Shakti Scheme, which offers free bus travel for women. However, transport authorities estimate that the diesel price rise alone could now cost the corporations nearly Rs 480 crore annually. Despite the growing financial strain, the state government has clarified that there is currently no proposal to increase bus ticket fares. Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said fare revision decisions would have to be proposed individually by the transport corporations and sent to the government for approval. "So far, no such proposal has been submitted," he said.

Truckers say refuelling accounts for nearly 40 to 45 per cent of a truck's total operating cost, making operations amid price hike challenging (File photo)

The scale of the impact becomes clearer when fuel consumption figures are examined. Karnataka's four transport corporations together operate more than 17,000 buses and consume nearly 16.38 lakh litres of diesel every day. KSRTC alone uses around 6.70 lakh litres daily, while BMTC consumes 2.50 lakh litres, NWKRTC 3.53 lakh litres and KKRTC 3.24 lakh litres. Officials said nearly 83.64 per cent of the corporations' earnings are already spent on diesel and employee salaries, leaving very little financial flexibility.

The impact of rising fuel prices is not limited to public transport. Across the country, the trucking industry is also under immense pressure. On Tuesday alone, more than 19 lakh trucks reportedly stayed off the roads as operators struggled to cope with soaring diesel costs. Small truck owners, in particular, are finding it difficult to even refill fuel tanks, while several fuel stations have reportedly stopped extending diesel on credit.

Truckers said diesel accounts for nearly 40 to 45 per cent of a truck's total operating cost. Economists and traders warn that the ripple effects of higher fuel prices will soon be felt by ordinary consumers. Transportation costs have already increased by nearly 15 per cent, and traders are expected to pass the burden onto customers. Prices of essentials such as rice, pulses, edible oil, milk and vegetables are likely to rise immediately.

Economists and traders warn that ripple effects of higher fuel prices may soon be felt by ordinary consumers with possible hikes in prices of essentials such as rice, pulses, edible oil, milk and vegetables

The hike is also expected to affect agriculture, which remains heavily dependent on diesel-powered equipment and transport. Delivery-based businesses including food delivery and e-commerce platforms such as Zomato, Swiggy, Amazon and Flipkart are also likely to revise delivery charges upward as fuel expenses rise. For middle-class families commuting daily by private vehicles, the increase has further disrupted already stretched monthly budgets.

Externment stayed, HC ensures fair appeal opportunity

The Karnataka High Court has stayed an externment order issued against a man accused of involvement in illegal cricket betting, observing that authorities cannot enforce such an order immediately and thereby deny the person the statutory right to appeal under the Karnataka Police Act.

Justice Lalitha Kanneganti passed the interim order while hearing a petition filed by 34-year-old Bharath Jayaram Das, who had challenged an externment directive issued by the Udupi police. The order required him to leave Udupi district and remain within the jurisdiction of the Kengeri Police Station in Bengaluru for six months.

The petitioner argued before the court that the authorities passed the order without adequate reasoning.

The court noted that Section 59 of the Karnataka Police Act grants a person 30 days to file an appeal against an externment order. However, in this case, the authorities enforced the order on the very day it was issued, effectively depriving the petitioner of his legal remedy.

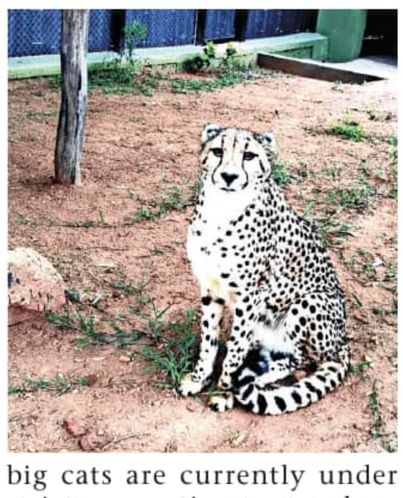
The court directed the petitioner to approach the State Home Department with an appeal by June 12, 2026, and ordered that the externment order should not be acted upon until then. — BMB

Mountaineering duo from K'taka summit Everest

Two members of the Karnataka Mountaineering Association successfully scaled Mount Everest from the Nepal side, marking a major achievement for Karnataka's mountaineering community. Bengaluru-based ophthalmologist Dr Chinmayee J Thrishulamurthy and mountaineer Santhosh Devarajappa reached the summit of the world's highest peak at 8,848.86 metres on May 21, 2026, at 12.10 pm. The success followed a gruelling 46-day expedition that tested their endurance amid challenging weather conditions.

The association, which is currently celebrating its 60th anniversary, said the achievement added special significance to the milestone year. In a statement, Karnataka Mountaineering Association President SK Mehta said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah formally wished the climbers and flagged off their expedition at Vidhana Soudha on March 9. Despite adverse weather and difficult terrain, the two climbers successfully completed the expedition and etched their names among the few Kannadigas to conquer Mount Everest. — BMB

BBP's new cheetahs to be on public display from June 4



The four cheetahs brought from South Africa to Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) will be open for public viewing from June 4, following the completion of their mandatory quarantine period. The animals, two males and two females sourced from Induna Primate and Parrot Park in South Africa, arrived earlier this year and have since been acclimating to their new environment.

The cheetahs arrived in Bengaluru on April 18 as part of a wildlife exchange programme and were kept in isolation for a period of 30 days to facilitate smooth acclimatisation. The big cats are currently under strict quarantine protocols, a prescribed diet and close health monitoring.

This animal exchange program was taken up to strengthen conservation efforts, enhance genetic diversity within captive populations, promote visitor awareness, and support scientific research. — BMB

CRIME FILES

Trio held for midnight mayhem

The Bengaluru City Police arrested three men for allegedly assaulting a passerby, issuing death threats, and vandalising parked two-wheelers in the VV Puram police station limits on May 20.

According to police, the accused, armed with sticks, stopped the victim on Magadi Venkatappa Road and assaulted him before threatening to kill him. They later allegedly damaged two-wheelers parked outside the complainant's house.

Based on the complaint, VV Puram police registered a suo motu case and launched an investigation. Police said the suspects were detained on May 23 following a tip-off.

During interrogation, the trio allegedly confessed to the assault and vandalism. They were produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody. **–BMB**

Tourists slammed over forest littering

A video showing tourists allegedly throwing beer cans and used tissues from a moving car inside Bandipur Tiger Reserve has gone viral on social media.

The incident, reportedly filmed on May 23, showed occupants of a car allegedly tossing beer cans onto the roadside while passing through the protected forest area.

The footage, captured on a fellow traveller's dashcam, quickly drew criticism from environmentalists and wildlife enthusiasts after being shared online.

The incident has renewed calls for stricter enforcement and greater tourist awareness in protected forest zones. **–BMB**

Prostitution: 5 women rescued

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) Women Protection Squad arrested seven women for allegedly running a prostitution racket from rented houses across Bengaluru and rescued five women during coordinated raids.

Police conducted raids at houses in Madduramma Layout in Srigandha Kaval, Temple Road in Vidyaranyapura, and BEML Layout in Basaveshwaranagar following credible information.

According to investigators, the accused allegedly contacted customers over the phone and operated the racket from rented properties for quick money. Separate cases have been registered at Kamakshipalya, Vidyaranyapura, and Basaveshwaranagar police stations under relevant sections of law.**–BMB**

Magadi Road nail trap caught

A video shared on X allegedly showed nails scattered across Magadi Road near Byadarahalli, disrupting commuters and raising fresh concerns over Bengaluru's alleged 'puncture mafia'.

Residents claimed sudden tyre punctures could lead to serious or fatal accidents. Several social media users alleged the nails were deliberately placed on the road to force motorists to seek help from nearby puncture repair shops.

Kamakshipalya Traffic Police Station said the matter is being examined following complaints online. **–BMB**

Woman dies by suicide

A 49-year-old woman from Mumbai was found dead at her flat near Jakkur in Bengaluru last Saturday, police said. According to investigators, a handwritten note recovered from the scene allegedly blamed her boyfriend, Harshvardhan Singh Bansal from Uttarakhand, for mental harassment and distress. Police identified the deceased as Manisha Prasad, who had been supervising interior work at her new flat in Periwinkle Apartment. She had been staying with her uncle in Thanisandra for the past two months. Police said she had previously worked at an FM radio station and was divorced in 2024. Manisha reportedly left home around 11 am, saying she was going to her flat. When repeated calls went unanswered, relatives used a spare key to enter the apartment and found her dead. Police registered a case under Section 108 of the BNS at Amruthahalli Police Station and are examining digital evidence and call records.. **–BMB**

21, including 14 in ICU, rescued from hospital blaze

Twenty-one patients, including 14 in the ICU, were evacuated after a fire broke out at a private hospital in north Bengaluru early on Wednesday.

The fire was reported around 3 am at Aveksha Hospital on M S Palya Road in Singapura. Police suspect a short circuit in a basement electrical cable triggered the blaze, causing thick smoke to spread through parts of the building.

Hospital staff shifted the ICU patients from the second floor before firefighters arrived. A fire tender was later deployed after the hospital alerted the fire control room.

Officials said the basement-plus-four-storey building suffered damage mainly in the ICU section due to smoke and flames. No injuries were reported. **–BMB**

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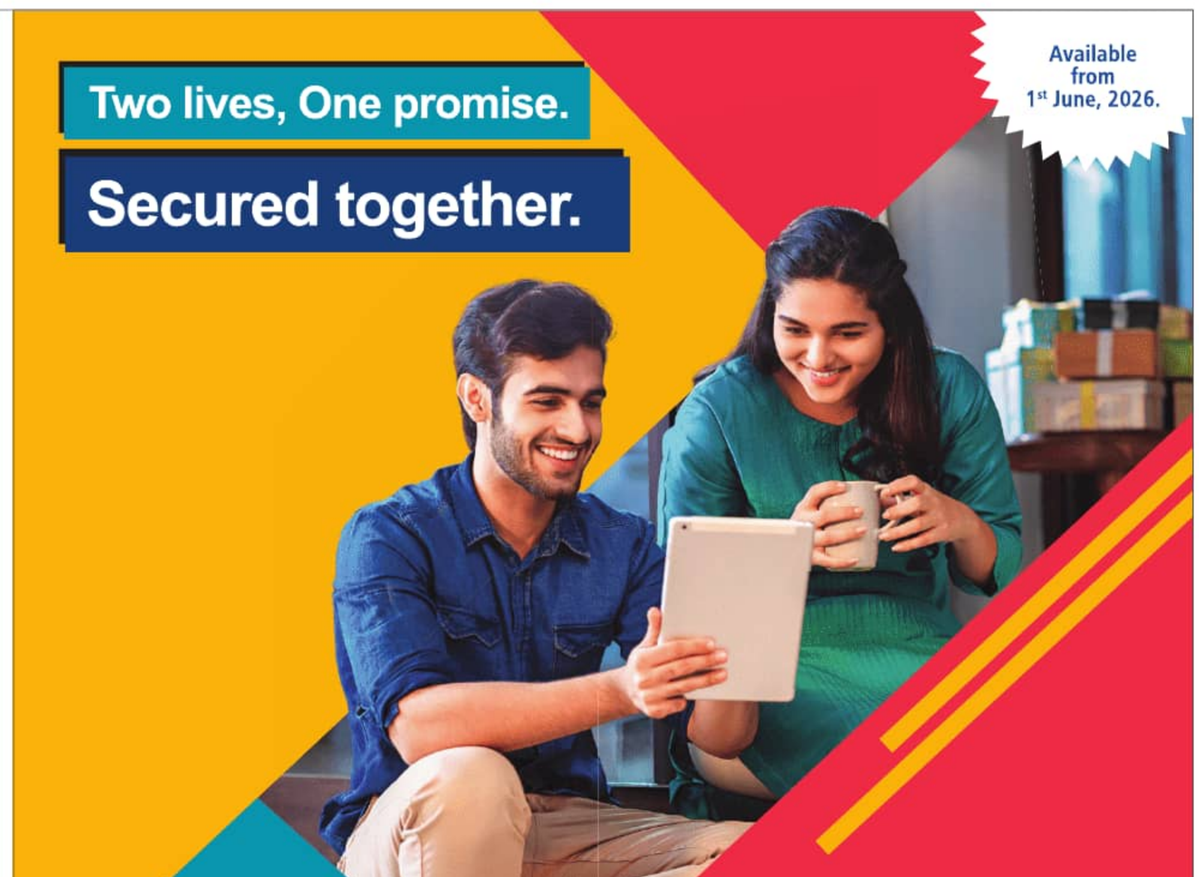

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Wage hike sparks relief among K'taka workers

The Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU)–Karnataka has welcomed the Karnataka government's decision to revise minimum wages, calling it a long-overdue move that would benefit workers and strengthen the state economy.

The JCTU, comprising eight central trade union organisations, said it had consistently urged the government to undertake the pending revision and had planned a statewide agitation on May 27. Following the government's final notification, the protest has now been withdrawn.

Welcoming the decision, the JCTU said, "A rising tide will lift all boats." The unions congratulated the Labour Minister and the Karnataka government for what they described as a "bold decision". They pointed out that revising minimum wages at least once every five years is mandatory under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and the Code on Wages, 2019, while Karnataka's last revision took place during 2016-17.

"The real wages of the workers have eroded due to the non-revision of wages. Therefore a retrospective implementation of minimum wages from the year 2022 onwards is the need of the hour," the release stated.

The JCTU also expressed concern that workers in garments, beedi and plantations were excluded from the latest notification. "We urge the State Government to take immediate measures to revise the wages for these workers as well," the release said. The Garment and Textile Workers Union (GATWU) criticised the exclusion of textile and garment workers, saying nearly four lakh workers continue earning around Rs 13,000 monthly, almost 30% lower than wages in several other industries. The union warned protests could intensify if the issue remains unresolved despite rising costs of living.

— BMB

Potholes in Kannur continue troubling daily commuters

Temporary pothole filling with M-sand and gravel washes away quickly, worsening commuter inconvenience during monsoon movement across busy stretch

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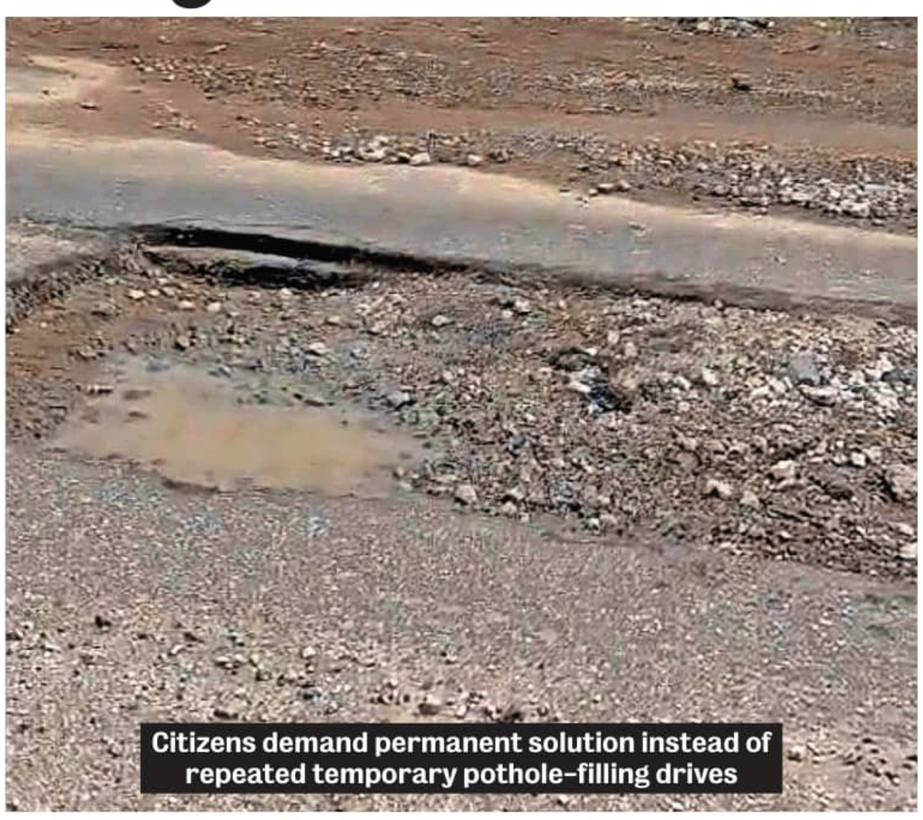

Citizens demand permanent solution instead of repeated temporary pothole-filling drives

City Corporation Commissioners have been convening meetings with engineers, stressing the need to fill potholes and desilt roadside drains to avoid inconvenience for motorists and pedestrians. Funds have also been allocated to repair potholes, along with deadlines to complete the work. However, motorists and pedestrians continue to suffer as potholes resurface soon after workers fill them with M-sand, gravel or wet mix.

Kannur Main Road has repeatedly drawn attention to its poor condition. Although the Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) authorities have taken measures to address the issue, potholes and craters continue to remain a major concern for commuters.

Expressing concern over the condition of Kannur Main Road, social activist Habiba Subhan said she had repeatedly complained to BNCC authorities about the potholes and craters, but no lasting solution had been provided.

"I am worried about the safety of hapless motorists who have no other alternative than commuting on Kannur Main Road. Now, schools are reopening and craters and potholes on this road pose danger to school children. Authorities must fix this problem as early as possible," said Habiba Subhan.

> **"Now, schools are reopening and craters and potholes on this road pose danger to school children. Authorities must fix this problem as early as possible**
> – Habiba Subhan, social activist

Blaming BNCC engineers for failing to resolve the issue despite repeated complaints, Keshav, a resident of Supertech Micasa, said clogged roadside drains filled with silt and debris were one of the main reasons behind the recurring potholes and craters.

"I have been aware of the craters on the road for quite some time. Whenever the public complains about potholes and craters, the BNCC workers fill up craters and potholes with M-sand and gravel. Due to lack of quality, the M-sand and gravel get washed away and potholes and craters resurface, causing a lot of problems for motorists and pedestrians," said Keshav.

Expressing a similar opinion, resident Sunny C said the potholes and craters pose danger to motorists and pedestrians, especially because heavy vehicles frequently use the stretch. "This is the road known for heavy vehicles including garbage tippers that transport garbage to the nearby landfill. I have also complained to the BNCC authorities, but the problems are not fixed," he said.

Meanwhile, the BNCC Executive Engineer of Byatarayanapura said there was a proposal for white topping of the road.

"I will fix the craters and potholes on Kannur Main Road," the executive engineer said.

134 tree, branch falls during Tuesday's rain

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

11 regular night teams, and 18 crane teams. Each of the first three teams will have eight members.

These teams were to be onboarded by mid of May for enough hands on deck in case of tree fall events during the monsoon. According to Pommala Sunil Kumar, special commissioner, North City Corporation, the tender to bring in new teams as per the revised plan is in process. "Today was the last date for the tender, and new teams are expected to be on board within a month. However, work is not being compromised, and we have all the manpower and machines required to remove fallen trees and branches. North City Corporation has been identifying and removing dry and dangerous trees and branches located along roadsides and in government lands within its jurisdiction since April," said Kumar.

The North City Corporation, as a precautionary measure, removed 183 dangerous trees and 2,508 dangerous branches in April. These operations were carried out to prevent untoward incidents. "All three city corporations have already floated the tender, and the new teams will be in place shortly. Till then, the old canopy management and night teams will be at work in all three corporation limits. The delay in issuing work orders and onboarding of new teams is due to some last-minute changes in the annual plan of operations," said Sudarshan GK, Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), Greater Bengaluru Authority.

Smoke detected in IndiGo flight, 230 passengers evacuated at airport

In ndiGo flight 6E 6017 from Bengaluru to Chennai had to evacuate 230 passengers onboard after smoke was detected inside the aircraft on Tuesday at Kempegowda International Airport. The smoke was detected while the aircraft was taxiing towards the runway. Airline officials stated that immediately after the smoke was detected, emergency slides were deployed for all crew members and passengers to safely move towards the terminal. As of now, the cause of the smoke has not been determined. Airport and airline authorities are expected to examine the aircraft and further investigation is underway — BMB

Aggressive behaviour by driver after ride cancellation alleged

An X user who goes by the handle @Nyctophilic posted that they had booked a ride on Ola, after which the driver allegedly behaved aggressively following the ride cancellation and misbehaved with them.

The driver allegedly chased the person across the road. The driver is alleged to have stopped once the person paid him to deescalate the situation. Ola Support responded to the user stating that such behaviour was not endorsed by the company.

The support team asked the user to share ride details and stated that an internal investigation was being conducted in this regard. Many netizens urged the user to file a formal police complaint — BMB

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Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Dark street
Ulsoor

A damaged streetlight pole on Cambridge Road in Ulsoor poses a serious risk of collapsing, prompting residents to seek immediate action from authorities.

Unsafe stretch
Doddakammanahall

Multiple potholes continue to plague Doddakammanahalli Main Road near an apartment, causing inconvenience and safety concerns for commuters.

Illegal occupation
Outer Ring Road

A long-standing illegal encroachment at Tin Factory junction, connecting Old Madras Road and Outer Ring Road, remains unchecked despite repeated complaints and no action from the GBA or Health Department.

Bengaluru's endless love affair with pizza

Veg and Non-Veg varieties rule the city's food scene

DID YOU KNOW?

- Pizza in its most rudimentary form was when Persian soldiers serving under Darius the Great baked flatbreads with cheese and dates on top of their battle shields
- It was only when the Spanish brought the tomato from the Americas and created the modern tomato that the modern 'pizzas' was born

From bustling tech parks to late-night cafés, pizza has become one of Bengaluru's most loved comfort foods, with residents embracing both vegetarian and non-vegetarian varieties in equal measure. Whether it is a classic Margherita loaded with extra cheese or spicy chicken toppings with local flavours, the city's appetite for pizza continues to grow across age groups and lifestyles.

Food outlets across Bengaluru say pizza orders peak during weekends, cricket matches, office gatherings and even midnight cravings. The city's cosmopolitan culture and large student and IT population have contributed significantly to the growing demand for global cuisines, with pizza emerging as a favourite choice.

"Bengaluru people are experimental when it comes to food. They enjoy everything from paneer tikka pizzas to pepperoni and peri-peri chicken varieties," said Rakesh Shetty, manager of a popular pizza outlet in Indiranagar. "Vegetarian pizzas are extremely popular among families, while young customers often prefer spicy non-veg options."

The rise of cloud kitchens and food delivery apps has also transformed the pizza business in the city. Restaurants now offer customised toppings, regional flavours and fusion pizzas inspired by Indian cuisine. Tandoori paneer, butter chicken, mushroom masala and even ghee-roast toppings have found a place on Bengaluru's pizza menus.

College student Kavitha Gowda said pizza has become an essential part of social gatherings. "Whenever we meet friends, pizza is always the first option because everyone can share it. I personally love veg-loaded pizzas, but many of my friends prefer chicken or sausage toppings," she said.

Non-vegetarian pizzas have especially gained popularity among the city's younger crowd, with barbecue chicken, meat lovers' specials and spicy keema pizzas becoming top sellers. At the same time, vegetarian choices continue to dominate among traditional households and health-conscious consumers.

"Bengaluru has a strong vegetarian culture, so we see huge demand for farm-fresh and cheese-based pizzas," explained chef Mohammed Arif, who runs an Italian café in Koramangala. "But non-veg pizzas are equally successful because the city has people from different states and backgrounds."

Pizza chains and local cafés alike are now focusing on affordable combos, thin-crust options and gourmet experiences to attract customers. Several restaurants have also started introducing millet-based crusts and vegan cheese options to cater to changing food preferences.

Food bloggers say Bengaluru's pizza culture stands out because of its diversity. "You can find authentic Italian-style pizzas, street-style desi pizzas and premium gourmet varieties all within a few kilometres," said a food influencer. "That variety is what makes Bengaluru unique."

With the city's fast-paced lifestyle and growing café culture, pizza has evolved beyond being just fast food. For many Bengalureans, it has become a comfort meal, a celebration dish and a favourite companion during work breaks and weekend outings. From vegetarian classics to meat-loaded specials, Bengaluru's love for pizza shows no signs of slowing down.

Pizza till 3 am in town

- Late-night cravings in Bengaluru just got better. Pizza lovers in the city can now enjoy doorstep deliveries till 3 am, thanks to extended operating hours introduced by several popular pizza chains and cloud kitchens. The move comes as demand for late-night food delivery continues to rise among students, IT professionals, night-shift employees and weekend partygoers.
- With Bengaluru's vibrant nightlife and growing work-from-home culture, midnight snacking has become a regular habit for many residents. Customers can now order everything from chicken max classic to loaded meat and cheese pizzas well past midnight through food delivery apps and direct restaurant platforms.
- The extended timings are expected to boost business for restaurants while offering greater convenience to consumers across the city. Areas with high student and corporate populations are likely to see the highest demand. For Bengalureans, this means no more settling for instant noodles during late-night hunger pangs.

Allegations that staff alert traders before raids are conducted

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

as stray cattle consume food waste mixed with discarded plastic from roadsides, garbage piles and drains.

Despite the State Government banning the manufacture, sale and use of several plastic products, the ground reality across Bengaluru Urban and Rural regions remains unchanged. Plastic waste can still be seen dumped along roads, stormwater drains, empty sites and even near lakes. Officials admit that weak monitoring by local bodies and poor enforcement at gram panchayat and municipal levels have allowed the problem to spread unchecked.

The bigger concern is that much of this plastic originates from daily consumer behaviour in Bengaluru. "From food delivery packaging and takeaway covers to disposable water bottles, plastic table sheets and carry bags used at weddings and public events, banned plastic continues to circulate openly. Many wedding halls dump leftover food mixed with plastic waste directly on roadsides, attracting cows, pigs and stray animals searching for food. In many areas, cattle are regularly seen feeding from garbage heaps outside hotels and function halls," said Devi Kumar, a green activist.

Hotels, bakeries, petty shops and roadside vendors continue using banned plastic for parcel packaging despite periodic raids by civic and food safety officials. Traders say enforcement drives are often temporary and predictable. Plastic items are seized during inspections, small fines are imposed and business resumes the next day. There are also allegations that some staff alert shop owners in advance before raids take place.

Veterinary experts warn that once plastic enters a cattle's stomach, surgery is often the only way to save the animal. In many cases, the condition is detected too late. Officials from the Animal Husbandry Department said consumer awareness is as important as enforcement, since discarded plastic waste directly affects animal health. But with plastic use continuing openly in Bengaluru's restaurants, functions and markets, the ban exists largely on paper while animals continue paying the price.

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I, Avaneesh Poonacha S/o Thimmaiah K.M R/o Flat No 104, A Block, Splendid Royale Apartments, ITI Layout, Hosapalya Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru 560068. I have changed my name from Avaneesh Poonacha Kelettira Thimmaiah to Avaneesh Poonacha for all future purpose.

I, Thripthy Thelapanda Palanagappa W/o Thimmaiah K.M R/o Flat No 104, A Block, Splendid Royale Apartments, ITI Layout, Hosapalya Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru 560068. I have changed my name from Thirpthy Thimmaiah to Thripthy T P for all future purpose.

I, Ankita Purohit w/o Ramawatar B Pareek R/o No.207, Ground flr, Vidyanagar, Bommasandra, Hosur road, Bengaluru 560099 have changed my name to Ankita. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Srinivasa Agachahalli Kalegowda S/o Kalegowda R/O No 105, Gowdara Beedhi Thindlu, Vidhyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru- 560097. Have Changed My Name to Srinivas Agachahalli Kalegowda for All Purposes.

I Karunakaran Vadivel R/o No.6, 3rd cross, Brindavan layout, Vijinapura,Dooravani - nagar, Bengaluru 560016 have changed my name to Karunakaran Vadivelu. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, Harshit Sunil Makhecha , S/o Sunil Makhecha, R/o Flat 204, Vandana Enclave, Venkatapura, Koramangala, Bengaluru-560034 have changed my name to Harshit Makhecha.

I, Kumaraswamy Devaraju S/o Bellur Devaraj R/o No 9/1, Mahadev Mansion,1st Stage, Adithya Nagar, Chikkabett ahalli, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097. Have Changed to Kumarswamy Bellur Devaraj for All Purposes.

I, ANIL JAGANNATHA, S/o JAGANATH M, R/o #426, Beereshwara Temple Road,Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Attibele,Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban, Karnataka – 562107, have changed my name to ANIL JAGANATH

I, Suman Rani Sharma, R/o Flat B Block 1 ,Meridian Apartments 1st A cross s r layout Murugeshpalya ,Bangalore North PO Vimana Bangalore 560017 to Suman Sharma

I, VISHWANATH P residing at #796/6, Jayanagar A Block, Saraswathi Nagar, Nittuvalli, Bapuji Vidyanagara, Davanagere - 577005 have changed my name from VISHWANATHA P to VISHWANATH P vide affidavit sworn before Notary Y.R Chandrasekar. Dtd 22-05-2026

I SEEJA ROSE R/O SF 10 B Block, Elegant Embassy, near jakkur Lake, Yelahanka, Bangalore North, Bangalore, Karnataka-560064, Have Changed my name to SEEJA ROSE MANJALY JACOB.

I, formerly known as Rekha Sudhindra, daughter of Chandrashekar, residing at 70710, Prestige Sunrise Park Norwood, have changed my name to Rekha Chandrashekar after divorce, vide affidavit dated 25/5/2026. Henceforth, I shall be known as Rekha Chandrashekar for all purposes

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JUNE: 21, 28
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Is Siddaramaiah quitting as CM today?

CM's decision is awaited amid exit rumours, with DKS seen as possible successor

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Growing speculation surrounded whether Thursday could mark the end of Siddaramaiah's tenure as Karnataka's longest-serving Chief Minister. Amid rumours of a possible leadership transition in the state, Siddaramaiah stated on Wednesday that he would provide detailed comments on Thursday regarding his recent visit to Delhi and his meetings with the Congress leadership.

After attending a programme organised to commemorate the death anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru, Siddaramaiah refrained from giving direct answers to questions about his continuation in office. When reporters asked him about the discussions held with the Congress high command in Delhi, he merely remarked that he would speak about it later. When pressed further on when he intended to clarify the matter, he indicated that he would address all issues the following day.

At the same time, Congress MLA HC Balakrishna reiterated his support for Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar becoming the next Chief Minister. Balakrishna stated that he had consistently demanded the post for Shivakumar and continued to stand by that position. However, he also acknowledged that no one could assume the role of Chief Minister without the support of Siddaramaiah and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge. He added that he would continue voicing support for Shivakumar.

Amid widespread rumours of a leadership change within the next two days, sources in the Chief Minister's Office reportedly confirmed on Wednesday that Siddaramaiah had requested time to meet the Governor on May 28. Speculation intensified that he might step down on Thursday, potentially paving the way for Shivakumar to take over as Karnataka's next Chief Minister.

Sources further indicated that senior Congress leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Kharge, had held extensive discussions with both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, separately as well as together. The party leadership was reportedly expected to take a final decision regarding any leadership change only after the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections next month.

According to party sources, supporters of Shivakumar had been mounting pressure on Siddaramaiah, 77, to relinquish the Chief Minister's post. Sources also claimed that the party had explored accommodating Siddaramaiah in a central role along with offering him a Rajya Sabha seat, though he had reportedly not agreed to the proposal.

Satish Jarkiholi likely for KPCC Chief?

Amid ongoing discussions over a possible leadership change in Karnataka, Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi is emerging as a strong contender for the post of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president if Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar is elevated as Chief Minister.

The Congress high command had earlier indicated in 2023 that Shivakumar would continue as KPCC chief until the Lok Sabha elections.

After the polls, however, the Siddaramaiah camp reportedly attempted to replace him, while Shivakumar maintained that he would not relinquish the post until the leadership-sharing issue was resolved.

Traveller from Uganda tests negative for Ebola

The Health Department on Wednesday confirmed that a 28-year-old woman from Uganda, suspected of carrying the Ebola virus after arriving from an affected region, has tested negative. The woman, who reported mild symptoms such as body aches, was shifted from a hotel to the state-run Epidemic Diseases Hospital in Bengaluru, where she was kept in isolation as a precautionary measure. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said her blood samples were sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune, and the test results ruled out Ebola infection.

The minister said the Health Department strictly followed all standard health protocols and safety measures and remained alert and fully prepared to handle any public health concern. Dr Sridhar Srinivasan G, Consultant in Internal Medicine at Vasavi Hospitals, said, "Strict precautionary measures, including the use of face masks, gloves, double gloves and full PPE kits, must be followed by healthcare workers and frontline staff. Suspected cases should undergo Ebola PCR testing at authorised laboratories such as the National Institute of Virology. Airport surveillance and screening measures need to be intensified and suspected patients should be kept in isolation rooms with full protective protocols in place. Direct contact with bodily fluids must be strictly avoided to prevent transmission."

Meanwhile, the Centre and Karnataka Health Department continue monitoring the Ebola situation following outbreaks in parts of Africa. —BMB

Power privatisation plans face pushback

The Karnataka Electricity Board Employees' Federation has strongly opposed moves to privatise the state's power distribution network after Tata Power reportedly applied to the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) seeking a distribution licence to supply electricity in areas currently served by state-run ESCOMs. The federation members accused the government of attempting to hand over a public utility built with taxpayers' money to private corporate players and warned of statewide protests if the plan is not withdrawn.

Federation President K Balaram said Karnataka's ESCOMs already have extensive infrastructure, including skilled manpower, substations, transmission systems and distribution networks worth thousands of crores, all developed through public investment. He said privatisation would hurt consumers and employees, especially in rural areas where private firms may not find operations profitable. Employees also feared welfare schemes and jobs could face uncertainty. They warned that free electricity schemes may suffer if private companies focus on profits. —BMB

Seven council seats to go to polls soon

The Election Commission announced the schedule for elections to seven seats in the Karnataka Legislative Council that are falling vacant on June 30 following the retirement of sitting members elected from the Assembly quota.

Polling will be held on June 18, with the notification issued on June 1.The last date for filing nominations is June 8, scrutiny will take place on June 9 and June 11 is the final date for withdrawal of nominations.

Voting is scheduled between 9 am and 4 pm on June 18, and the entire election process is expected to be completed by June 20.

Of the seven retiring members, three belong to the Congress, three to the BJP and one to the JD(S). With the Assembly strength at 222, the Congress is positioned to secure four seats, while the BJP is expected to win two.

The remaining seat could spark political manoeuvring as neither Congress nor JD(S) has the numbers independently.

A Congress fourth candidate may need JD(S) support, while a JD(S) nominee would similarly depend on Congress votes. —BMB

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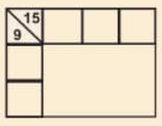
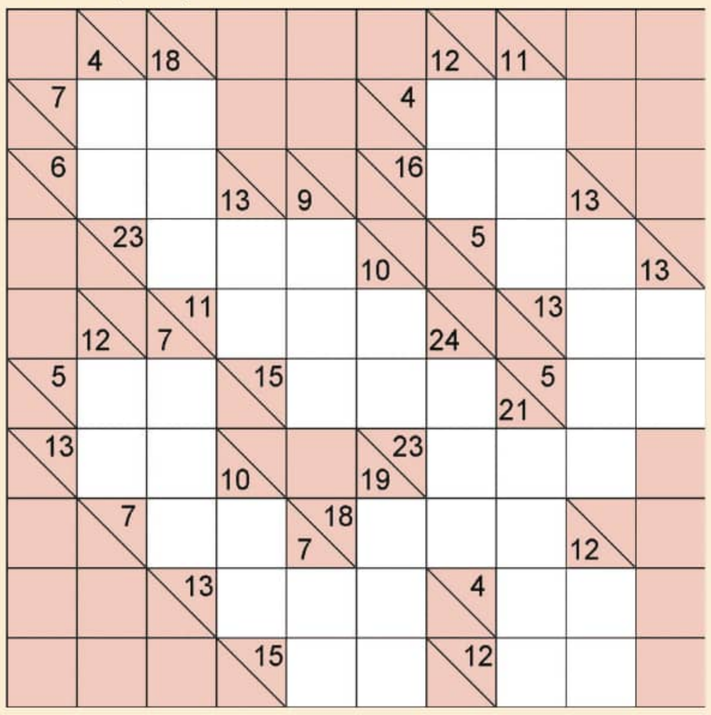
Kakuro

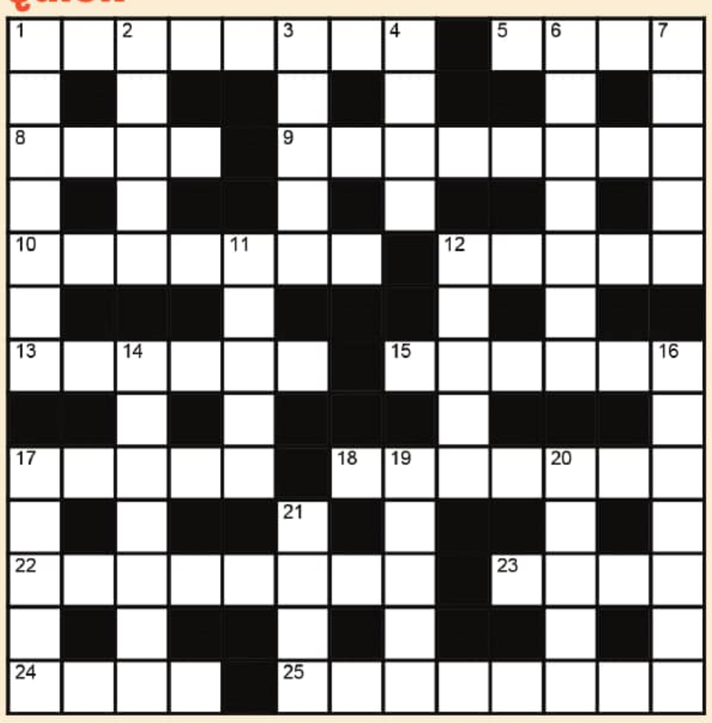
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Unusual or eccentric (8)
5 Employed (4)
8 Heavy hammer (4)
9 Hold back (8)
10 Fights back; doesn't give in? (7)
12 Show the way (5)
13 ___ on the knuckles : reprimanded? (6)
15 You will find the planetarium on this road (6)
17 Greased (5)
18 Mention something inadvertently? (3,4)
22 Reticent (8)
23 Stereo (2-2)
24 Walk in water (4)
25 Popular breakfast fare (5,3)

DOWN

1 One who reveres and respects another? (7)
2 Naming words (5)
3 Deserve; warrant (5)
4 Misplaced (4)
6 Suffering from mal de mer (7)
7 Slow student (5)
11 Velocity (5)
12 Hard work (5)
14 Patrolled (7)
16 Shouting (7)
17 Being pulled (2,3)
19 Utter boredom (5)
20 Similar (5)
21 Fan or enthusiast (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: C EQUALS P

PE CWQCJW DTWS MQS MNFZ P MNZ UQ SQFD UQ INPT BL BNAUWFL, PU SQOJZT'U AWWB AQ SQTZWFEOJ NU NJJ-BPYMWJNTIWJQ

Linemaro

I'd come back from the dead for you

Mindchow

When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth

Joke of the day

I went to a really emotional wedding the other day. Even the cake was in tiers

Loop

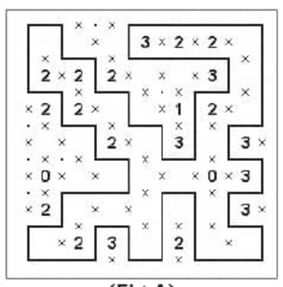
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

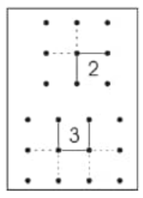
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

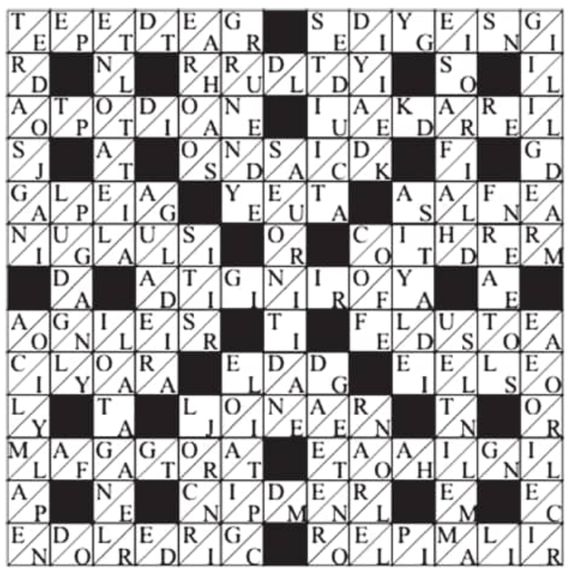


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

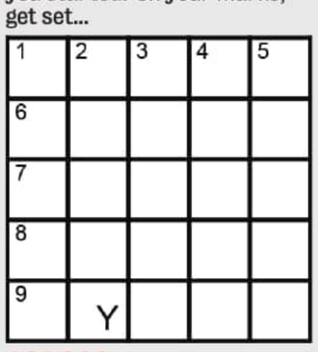
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

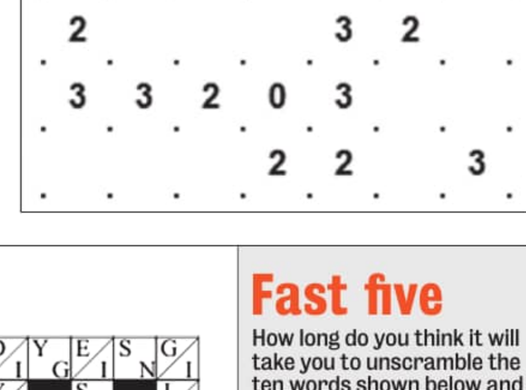
1 NHS is; 6 Talon;
7 If ran; 8 Dynee;
9 Gorsy

DOWN

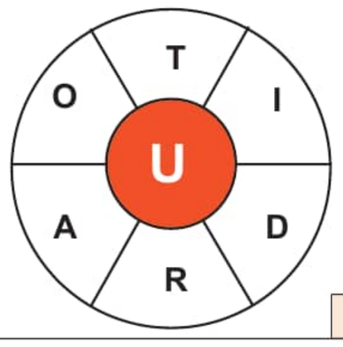
1 Tings; 2 On hey;
3 Finer; 4 Adorn;
5 Lyssa

Mensapuzzle

Which number is missing?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6		3		7			9
	5	3	1			4		
				5		3		
				9	1	6	8	
	3						4	
	4	9	6	7				
		4		6				
		2			4	7	3	
7			5		9		1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6

3 4 5 8

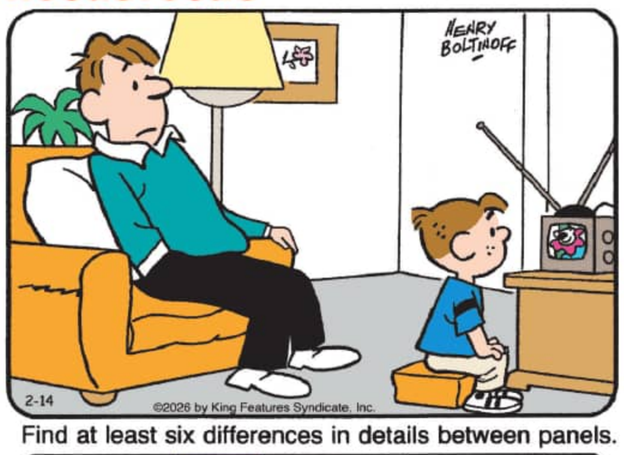
Medium = 6

1 1 2 5

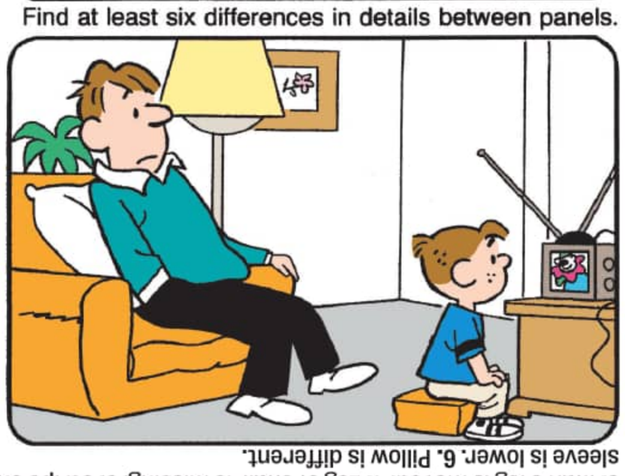
Hard = 28

1 2 5 6

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. TV screen is different. 2. TV cord is added. 3. Man's leg is moved. 4. Leg of chair is missing. 5. Stripe on sleeve is lower. 6. Pillow is different.

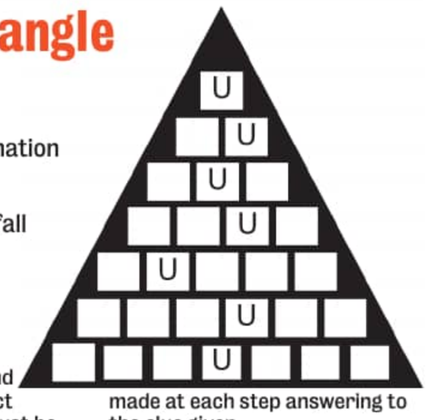
Riddler

Below are incomplete words. Replace the letters in each bracket so that you can complete the word on the left and begin the word on the right.

Indivi (_ _ _ _) ity Din (_ _ _) ve
Can (_ _ _) lar

Alpha triangle

1 Universal, abbr.
2 Et Brute
3 Intestine
4 Arthritic inflammation
5 Should
6 Drinking spot
7 Shortage of rainfall



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

I YAM AN INTELLIGENT HUMAN CHILD!
I HAS A BRAIN!
I THINKS!
I YAM AS SMART AS ANY SILLY ADULT!
THE WORLD NEEDS ME!!
BUT NOBODY WILL LISTEN TO ME!!
popeye.com
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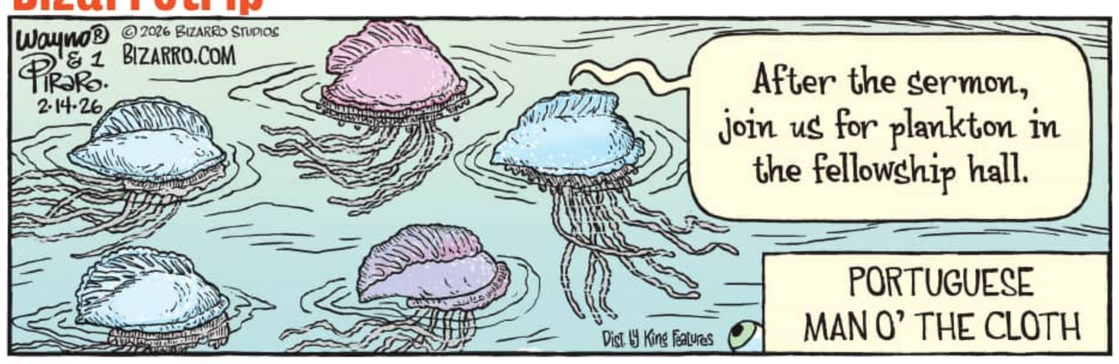
8-26

Bizarrotrip


Wayno & Piraro 2-14-26
©2026 Bizarro Studios
BIZARRO.COM
After the sermon, join us for plankton in the fellowship hall.
PORTUGUESE MAN O' THE CLOTH
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

YOU KNOW, I ONCE DATED A LOVELY ITALIAN BEAUTY...
SHE MADE THE BEST SPAGHETTI SAUCE I EVER TASTED!
ALL RIGHT... WHAT WAS HER NAME?
MARY NARA!
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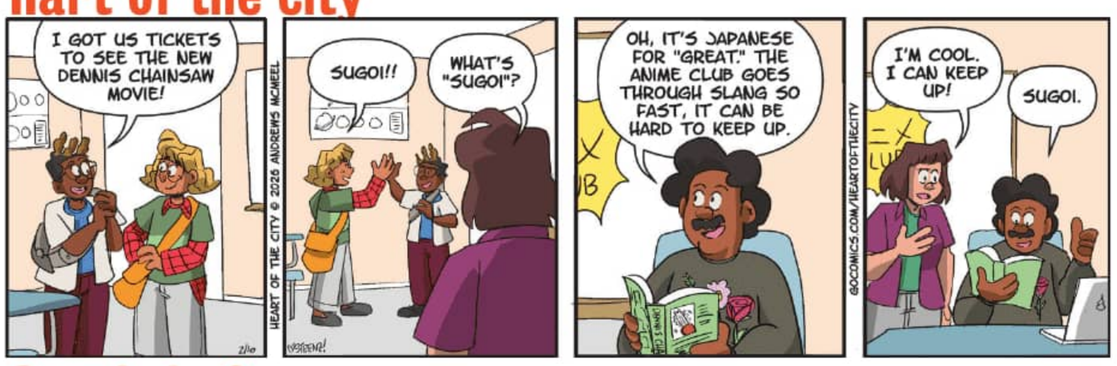
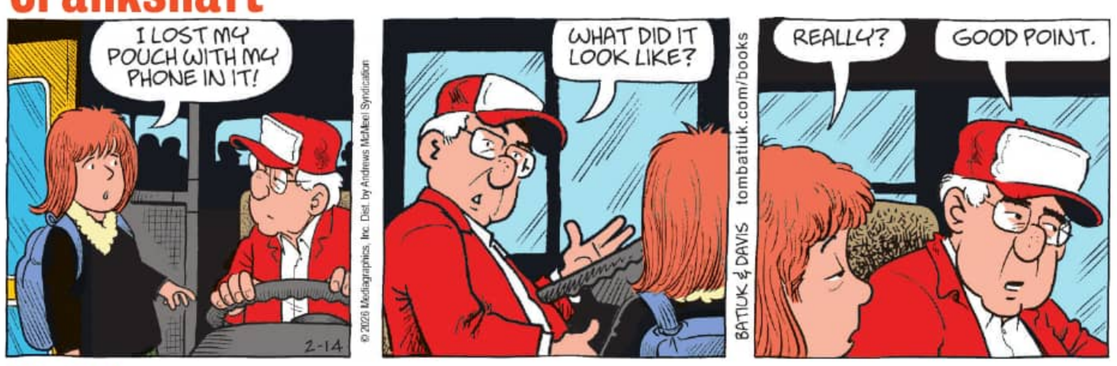
www.creators.com
Bramhall

Hart of the city


I GOT US TICKETS TO SEE THE NEW DENNIS CHAINSAW MOVIE!
SUGOI!!
WHAT'S "SUGOI"?
OH, IT'S JAPANESE FOR "GREAT." THE ANIME CLUB GOES THROUGH SLANG SO FAST, IT CAN BE HARD TO KEEP UP.
I'M COOL. I CAN KEEP UP!
SUGOI.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2026 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft


I LOST MY POUCH WITH MY PHONE IN IT!
WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE?
REALLY?
GOOD POINT.
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BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
2-14

Mutts

WELL, WOOFIE, DID YOU FIND SOMEONE TO BE YOUR VALENTINE?
OH, EARLY PEARLY, THE WHOLE WORLD IS MY VAWENTINE TO WOO!
THAT'S A LOT OF CHOCOLATES!
2-14
www.kingfeatures.com
mutts.com

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Practicality and efficiency are your guiding stars. You are streamlining your life to make room for what truly matters. Expect to clear out physical clutter and unnecessary obligations. This newfound space allows a brilliant new business idea to take root. Your focus is unbreakable, ensuring that you finish every project you start with high quality and total precision.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Travel plans might face a minor hiccup, but stay flexible. A detour leads to an enchanting discovery you would have otherwise missed. Embrace the spontaneous rhythm of the open road today.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Trust your body's signals today. If you feel tired, rest without guilt. Recharging your internal battery ensures you have the stamina required for the exciting opportunities arriving later this week.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A financial opportunity appears through a social connection. Be ready to act quickly but cautiously. Your ability to network effectively is finally translating into tangible rewards for your bank account.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Career focus intensifies as a deadline approaches. Your dedication ensures a high-quality result that impresses your superiors. Remember to breathe and take small breaks to maintain your mental clarity throughout.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Philosophical insights bring a new perspective to a personal dilemma. Seek wisdom from an ancient text or a trusted mentor. Expanding your world view helps you find the peace you seek.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Shared resources require careful management. A conversation about joint finances is productive and clear. Transparency builds the trust necessary for a secure and prosperous future with your most valued partners.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Harmony in your closest relationships is easily maintained. Enjoy a quiet evening with a loved one. Simple pleasures bring the most joy and strengthen the bonds that matter most today.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Focus on your daily routine to increase productivity. Small changes to your habits lead to significant improvements in your health. Discipline is the key to achieving your long-term wellness goals.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Creative self-expression is favoured. Dive into a project that allows your unique voice to shine. Your passion is evident in your work, inspiring others to follow their own creative dreams.

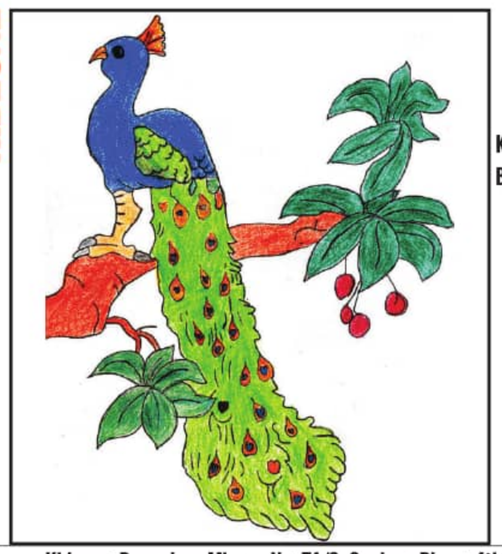
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Domestic projects move forward smoothly. Your practical approach ensures that everything is done correctly and efficiently. A sense of accomplishment brings peace to your home and your busy, focused mind.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Communication is highlighted today. Reach out to a sibling or a neighbour. A brief conversation leads to a surprising insight that helps you solve a lingering problem in your life.

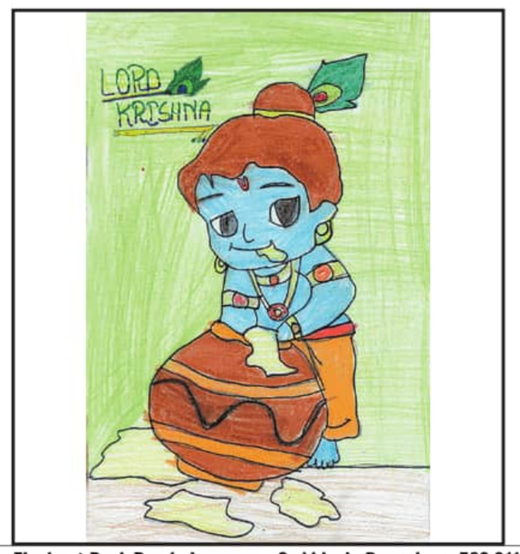
Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Financial stability is within reach. Review your budget and make a plan for the future. Your intuitive approach to money management helps you build a secure foundation for your dreams.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Kishan, Bengaluru



Varshith, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
5^9÷(5^3)^3×25^2
5^9÷5^9×25^2
25^2
625

BULL'S EYE
audio, audit, AUDITOR, auto, dour, rout, tour

FAST FIVE

S	H	I	N	S
T	O	N	A	L
I	N	F	R	A
N	E	E	D	Y
G	Y	R	O	S

RIDDLER
Individual - duality, Dinner - nerve, Cancel - cella

STRIKE OUT

T	E	E	T	E	R	■	E	D	G	I	N	G	■	■
R	■	N	■	R	U	D	D	Y	■	S	■	L	■	■
O	P	T	I	O	N	■	U	A	K	A	R	I	■	■
J	■	A	■	S	N	A	C	K	■	I	■	D	■	■
A	P	I	A	■	Y	E	T	■	S	A	F	E	■	■
N	U	L	L	S	■	O	■	O	T	H	E	R	■	■
D	■	D	I	G	N	I	F	Y	■	A	■	■	■	■
O	G	L	E	S	■	I	■	F	L	U	T	E	■	■
I	Y	A	R	■	L	A	D	■	E	L	S	E	■	■
L	■	A	■	L	O	N	E	R	■	T	■	R	■	■
M	A	G	G	O	T	■	T	A	H	I	N	I	■	■
A	■	E	■	C	I	D	E	R	■	M	■	E	■	■
N	O	R	D	I	C	■	R	E	P	A	I	R	■	■

QUICK

A	B	N	O	R	M	A	L	■	U	S	E	D	■	■
D	■	O	■	E	■	O	■	E	■	E	■	U	■	■
M	A	V	U	L	■	R	E	S	T	R	A	I	N	■
I	■	N	■	I	■	T	■	S	■	S	■	I	C	■
R	E	S	I	S	T	S	■	G	U	I	D	E	■	■
E	■	■	■	P	■	■	■	R	■	C	■	■	■	■
R	A	P	P	E	D	■	S	A	N	K	E	Y	■	■
O	■	■	■	O	■	■	■	F	■	■	■	E	■	■
O	I	L	E	D	■	L	E	T	F	A	L	L	■	■
N	■	I	■	B	■	N	■	L	■	■	■	L	■	■
T	A	C	I	T	U	R	N	■	H	I	F	I	■	■
■	■	E	■	F	■	U	■	■	■	K	■	N	■	■
G	G	E	D	E	F	I	R	■	F	R	I	E	D	G

MENSA PUZZLE
6. Each row and column contains 4 consecutive numbers in a random order.

QUOTE UNCODE
If people knew how hard I had to work to gain my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all — Michelangelo

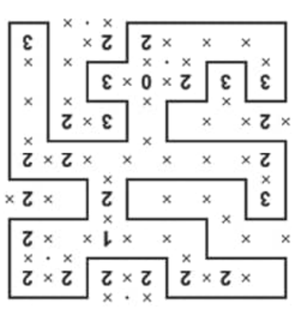
SUDOKU

1	6	8	3	4	7	5	2	9
9	5	3	1	2	6	4	7	8
4	2	7	9	5	8	3	6	1
2	7	5	4	9	1	6	8	3
6	3	1	2	8	5	9	4	7
8	4	9	6	7	3	1	5	2
3	1	4	7	6	2	8	9	5
5	9	2	8	1	4	7	3	6
7	8	6	5	3	9	2	1	4

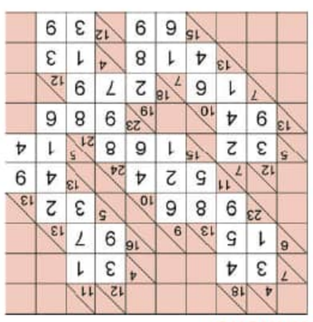
ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Tu, Gut, Ought, Trough, Drought.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 - 4 + 8 - 3 = 6
Medium
5 + 2 x 1 - 1 = 6
Hard
6 x 5 x 1 - 2 = 28

LOOP



KAKURO



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Paris battles AI
Paris Hilton condemns AI deepfake pornography, backing new legislation protecting victims of non-consensual explicit imagery

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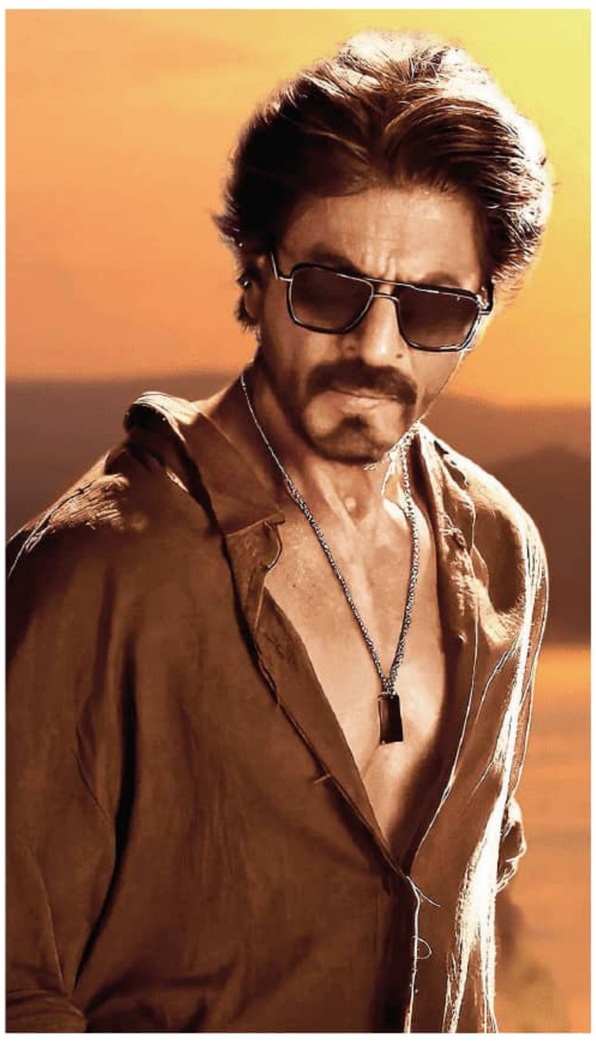
The real Don 3 twist

Reports claim SRK prioritised larger entertainers over returning to Don franchise



Ever since Farhan Akhtar announced Don 3, speculation surrounding the casting has dominated headlines. Before reports emerged about Ranveer Singh reportedly stepping away from the project and the non-cooperation directive issued against him by FWICE, fans were convinced that Shah Rukh Khan would return as the iconic Don after leading the franchise's first two films.

According to reports, Shah Rukh Khan did not reject the film because he disliked the script, but because he was not entirely convinced about returning unless the screenplay met his expectations. Sources claimed the actor wanted to be "doubly sure" before signing the project, particularly given the current box office climate.

Farhan Akhtar reportedly revisited the screenplay in the hope that SRK would reconsider. At the time, Shah Rukh was occupied with films such as Dunki, Pathaan and Jawan.

Reports later suggested the actor wanted to focus on large-scale entertainers with broader audience appeal. Following his decision not to return, Farhan allegedly chose to reinvent the franchise with a new lead, paving the way for Ranveer Singh to step into the role.

—ETimes

SANDALWOOD
SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Kunal's Kannada debut

Renowned Bollywood actor Kunal Kapoor has joined the cast of Lambodhara 2.0, an upcoming science-fiction social thriller directed by Simple Suni, known for several successful Kannada films. The film also marks the acting debut of producer-writer Anil Shetty, who stars opposite Bollywood actor Saachi Bindra.

Known for performances in Rang De Basanti, Don 2 and Dear Zindagi, Kunal Kapoor will play a pivotal role, marking his Kannada cinema debut.

Lambodhara 2.0 explores the impact of artificial intelligence and social media on modern life, addressing themes including loneliness, digital addiction, social validation and psychological control.

The final shooting schedule is underway, with the makers targeting a theatrical release in September. The team is also planning a global multi-language release aimed at Gen Z audiences.

Produced under MASS Production, the film follows a Bengaluru youth navigating conflicts between the real and digital worlds.

Award buzz begins

Actor Dr Shiva Rajkumar praised Ram Charan's performance in the upcoming pan-India film Peddi and said the actor deserves a National Award.

Speaking at a promotional event in Bengaluru attended by Janhvi Kapoor, Dr Shiva Rajkumar said he agreed to join the project after director Buchi Babu Sana narrated the script.

"Chiranjeevi sir's family shares a close bond with ours. Ram Charan has put in tremendous effort for the role and deserves national recognition," he said.

Ram Charan said he was delighted to share screen space with Dr Shiva Rajkumar, who plays his teacher in the film.

"I thank everyone who attended the event. The film releases on June 4," he said.

Janhvi Kapoor, who addressed the audience in Kannada, said she enjoyed working with Ram Charan and loved Bengaluru.

The film also stars Boman Irani, Jagapathi Babu, Ravi Kishan and Upendra Limaye.